

REMARKS

Claim 17-27 are pending in this application. Claims 1-16 and 28-39 have been canceled.

Claims 16-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as allegedly being obvious over *Paske* (US 6,231,525) in view of *Martin* et al (US 5,340,067) or *Willems* et al (US Pub No. 20040103745). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Paske discloses a device and method for measuring hand and wrist damage. Measuring hand and wrist damage requires an accurate measurement of the gripping force applied by a hand. *Paske* disclosed measuring gripping force using a “triangular force system.” *Paske*, col. 4, lines 32-34. In a triangular force system, the gripping force projections meet at one point, shown as point 22 in Figure 1.

The advantage of a triangular force system lies in how side loads are addressed. When the hand grips the fixture, loads are normal to the surface and perpendicular to the surface (side loads). The forces normal to the surface are easily measured using the force gages. The side loads, however, are more difficult to measure. The difficulty is addressed by the triangular force system. In a triangular force system, the side loads are trigonometrically resolved. *Id.* col. 6, line 14.

A triangular force system is created by specially designing the force fixture. See *Id.*, col. 6, lines 1-25. Thus, special care is spent on the fixture’s surface angles.

Martin and *Willems* both disclose applications that seek to reduce the loads required to grip or move a surface. Both disclose increasing the roughness of a surface to reduce the force required grip/move it. *Martin*, col. 4, lines 20-25 (increasing roughness reduces force required to grip a mouse); *Willems*, ¶ 6 (increasing roughness reduces force required to turn a wheelchair wheel).

One skilled in the art would not combine the teachings of *Paske* with those of *Martin* or *Willems*. As the Examiner acknowledges, *Paske* does not disclose slick contact points. March 9 Office Action, ¶ 5. The Examiner relies on the teachings of either *Martin* or *Willems* to supply the missing element. *Id.* Neither reference, however, addresses the

teachings of *Paske*, that is, accurately measuring applied force. *Paske* does not require increasing or decreasing the amount of force applied to a fixture. *Paske* requires accurate measurement of the force that is applied. Accordingly, one skilled in the art would not have any reason to combine with teachings of *Paske* with *Martin* or *Willems*. Neither *Marin* or *Willems* adds anything to *Paske*. Indeed, it is only after reviewing Applicant's invention that the advantages of a slick surface for diagnosing hand and wrist injuries becomes apparent.

Applicant's invention recognizes the advantages of providing slick surfaces to a fixture. The slick surfaces allow the forces to be accurately measures without the need for a specially shaped fixture. Because the slick surfaces substantially eliminate the side loads, there is no need to trigonometrically resolve side loads. Applicant has amended claim 1 to more specifically claim his invention.

In view of the above, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes a fee of \$ 620 is due with this response. If a larger fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. HO-P02511US1/10207082 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 9, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By /Michael S. McCoy/
Michael S. McCoy
Registration No.: 46,913
FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
Fulbright Tower
1301 McKinney, Suite 5100
Houston, Texas 77010-3095
(713) 651-5151
(713) 651-5246 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant